

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) Functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent, a binder and an organic solvent.
2. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 1, comprising a diluent.
3. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 2 wherein the diluent is butylcarbitol.
4. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders.
5. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has etching activity for antireflection layers of solar cells.
6. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent has removal activity of oxidation layers and/or nitride layers of Si.
7. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the etching agent is NH<sub>4</sub>HF<sub>2</sub> or NH<sub>4</sub>F.
8. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ Claim 1, wherein the metal powder is one or more powder selected from the group consisting of Ag-coated Ni powder, Cu powder, Ag powder, Au powder and Pd powder.
9. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the binder contains a thermosetting resin.
10. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 9, wherein the thermosetting resin is an epoxy resin and/or phenol resin.
11. (Currently Amended) Functional paste according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, wherein the organic solvent is polyhydric alcohol or its mixture.
12. (Original) Functional paste according to claim 11, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is glycerin and/or ethylene glycol.
13. (Original) A solar cell comprising a semiconductor layer, an antireflection layer above the semiconductor layer, and a surface electrode which penetrates through the antireflection layer to bring the semiconductor layer into conduction, wherein the solar cell is fabricated by coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having etching activity for antireflection layers, a binder and an organic solvent, on the antireflection

layer in a desired electrode shape.

14. (Original) An electric circuit formed by coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders, a binder and an organic solvent, on a substrate in a desired pattern.
15. (Original) A method of fabricating a solar cell comprising a semiconductor layer, an antireflection layer above the semiconductor layer, and a surface electrode which penetrates through the antireflection layer to bring the semiconductor layer into conduction, wherein the method comprises coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having etching activity for antireflection layers, a binder and an organic solvent, on the antireflection layer in a desired electrode shape.
16. (Original) A method of forming electric circuits, which comprises coating and baking the functional paste comprising a metal powder, an etching agent having removal activity of oxidation layers on the surface of the metal powders, a binder and an organic solvent, on a substrate in a desired pattern.